GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2699
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
OPTIMUM USE OF LAND
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any time bound programme for optimum use of land to support the growing population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the available land which would be put to optimum use;

(d) the total land in the country which is subject to soil erosion and land degradation;

(e) whether the Government have made any assessment about the loss of land during the next fifteen years as a result thereof; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for the Tenth Five Year Plan, consulted by Planning Commission, has formulated a perspective plan for development of an area of 88.5 million ha. in 20 years through Watershed Development programmes.

(d) to (f): It is intimated that about 173.6 million ha., out of total reported area of about 306 million ha., is subjected to various kinds of land degradation and about 5334 million tonnes of top soil is being lost every year through water erosion. The Government of India is implementing various watershed development programmes for development and management of degraded land in the country. An area of about 27.5 million ha. has been treated under these programmes by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.